

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K: DLRANARD

APPROVED BY EA:RLSNEIDER

S/S - MR. LUERS

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R 222325Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014412

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR WILLIAMS RETURNED TO DEPARTMENT JANUARY 22 TO PRESENT TO RANARD, EA/K, CANBERRA'S REACTION TO REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY SNEIDER JANUARY 21 AGAINST AUSTRALIAN MOVE AT THIS TIME TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA.

2. REFERRING TO CABLE FROM CANBERRA, WILLIAMS SUMMARIZED AUSTRALIAN RESPONSE AS FOLLOWS:

A. CANBERRA BELIEVED IT HAD CAREFULLY PRESENTED ITS VIEWS TO USG AND HAD KEPT IT INFORMED CONCERNING ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS NORTH KOREA.

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B. WHILE IT SAW LITTLE PROSPECT FOR DEFERRING NEGOTIATIONS IN JAKARTA, IT WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISSUES MORE FULLY WITH THE UNITED STATES BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER.

C. ALTHOUGH IT HAD HOPED FOR SOME RECIPROCAL MOVE COMING OUT OF ITS CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA, THIS HAD NOT PROVEN TO BE THE CASE. IT NOW HOPED THAT BY MOVING TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IT WOULD BE ABLE TO

ENCOURAGE SIMILAR MOVES FROM FRIENDS OF NORTH KOREA. AUSTRALIA CONTINUED TO BE ENCOURAGED BY THE CONSENSUS IN THE UN, AND PARTICULARLY THE ROLE PLAYED BY CHINA.

D. AUSTRALIA DID NOT BELIEVE HER ACTION WOULD HARDEN DPRK POSITIONS IN THE TALKS AND ACTUALLY THERE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY (I.E., BY DRAWING NORTH KOREA OUT INTO THE WORLD SHE WOULD BECOME MORE MODERATE).

E. FINALLY, AUSTRALIA INTENDS TO MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NORTH KOREANS THAT RECOGNITION DOES NOT IMPLY SUPPORT OF DPRK POLICIES OR ANY LESSER SUPPORT OF THE ROK.

3. RANARD REGRETTED THAT ACTION WHICH AUSTRALIA HAD UNDERTAKEN BY ENTERING INTO CONTACTS WITH THE NORTH SOME MONTHS AGO, SUPPOSEDLY IN AN EFFORT TOWARDS ENCOURAGING EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT OF BOTH SIDES, WAS NOW ENDING WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE ONE-SIDED TREATMENT. HE REFERRED TO ARGUMENTATION USED BY SNEIDER ON PREVIOUS DAY AND AGAIN URGED THAT AUSTRALIA PROPOSE TO NORTH KOREA SHE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS IN JAKARTA IF NORTH KOREA WERE PREPARED TO URGE RECIPROCAL ACTION BY ONE OF HER EASTERN EUROPEAN FRIENDS. HE REITERATED THAT MOVE CAME AT AN UNFORTUNATE MOMENT FOR SOUTH KOREA AND WONDERED WHETHER AGREEMENT MIGHT NOT BE REACHED TO POSTPONE FOR GIVEN PERIOD OF TIME. WILLIAMS PERSONALLY SAW LITTLE HOPE ON BASIS OF HIS UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIAN DETERMINATION TO GO AHEAD. IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT GOA WOULD NOT MOVE TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS IN JAKARTA WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH U.S. HE DID NOT THINK, HOWEVER, THAT
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AUSTRALIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO HOLD UP FOR MORE THAN A FEW DAYS. KISSINGER

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